

PRESS RELEASE



The Cleveland Museum of Art

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FOR RELEASE ON RECEIPT

MIRRORS: ART AND SYMBOL
Through November 18, 1984

The Cleveland Museum of Art's acquisition, in 1983, of a spectacular pair of Egyptian bronze hand mirrors dating from the mid-15th century BC and a Chinese "Deities and Beasts" bronze hand mirror dating from the 4th-5th century AD inspired this exhibition. More than two dozen bronze hand mirrors are on display in Mirrors: Art and Symbol, in Gallery A through November 18, 1984. The show includes the two Egyptian mirrors, the Chinese mirror, and examples of ancient Greek, Etruscan, other Chinese, and Japanese mirrors. Three handsome modern mirrors provide a postscript. Prints and decorative objects showing mirrors in use or as symbols have also been included.

Labels offer historical information about each group of mirrors (Egyptian, Etruscan, Greek, Chinese, Japanese, and European); explain how many of the mirrors were made and decorated; and note the various philosophical, religious, mythological, social, economic, and functional aspects of the mirrors.

The mirrors themselves show the rich variety of design and decorative techniques that artists and craftsmen have lavished on mirror backs, cases, and stands. Included are casting, incising, repoussé, and inlaying methods. The Arts and Crafts Movement sought, in the latter half of the nineteenth century, to restore the importance of the individual craftsman, in the face of increasing mass production, and the three modern mirrors reflect that effort. Two are Art Nouveau hand mirrors, one a collaborative piece by Bracquemond, Rodin, Riquet, and Falize, and the other is an Art Deco hand mirror by Lalique.

(more)

2-mirrors: art and symbol

All of the works in the exhibition, with the exception of one object lent by a private collector, were selected from the Museum's collection by exhibition organizers Jenifer Neils, assistant curator of ancient art, and Elinor Pearlstein, assistant curator of Oriental art.

On Wednesday and Sunday, August 22 and 26, at 1:30 pm, Julie Hoover, instructor in the Museum's art history and education department, will offer a free gallery talk in the exhibition.

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For additional information or photographs, please contact the Public Information Office, The Cleveland Museum of Art, 11150 East Boulevard, Cleveland, Ohio 44106; 216/421-7340.